Closure of mica mining industries in Bihar

*437. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased ot state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the crisis being faced by the mica mining industry in Bihar with the closing of a large number of mines thus rendering thousands of tribal workers jobless;

(b) if so, what is the total number of mica mines that have since been closed down in Bihar;

(c) the factors responsible for the present situtiom; and

(d) the steps contemplated by Government to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The number of working mica mines in Bihar has declined from 242 in 1972 to 53 in 1990.

(c) The main reasons for the decline in the number of mica mines in Bihar may be ascribed to the following:—

1. Depletion of mica pegmatities.

2. Recession in demand in the international market due to changes in technology, and competition from other mica producing countries.

3. Mines not being able to produce large size mica.

4. Acute shortage of power.

(d) The steps taken by Government for reviving the mica mining industry are as follows:—

1. Modification of procurement policy fro mica scrap to provide better price to manufacturers.

2. Eestablishment of industries producing value added mica based products;

3. A Committee on Mica Industry & Trade was set up in September, 1989 to identify the problems of the Mica industry. The Committee has submitted its report suggesting remedial measures.

SAARC Decade of the girl child

*438. DR. RATNAKAR PANDEY: SHRI BEKAL UTSAHI:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state;

(a) whether Government have prepared any action plan to observe 1991-2000 as the SAARC Decade of the Girl Child; and

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the steps to be taken by the Central and State Governments to assure the Girl Child its due place in the society?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) and (b) A draft outline of a plan of action for the SAARC Decade of the Girl Child has been prepared for consultation with the State Governments and concerned Deptts. of the Government of India. It will deal, among other things, with the nutrition, health, education, awareness generation and vocational skills for girls.

World Bank Loans for Agricultural Development in Rajasthan

*439. SHRI DHULESHWAR MEENA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that $ 100 million aid is likely to be sanctioned by the World Bank for a comprehensive agricultural development in Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the details of the areas likely to be benefited thereby;

(c) whether the World Bank has set any pre-condition in regard to the aid;

(d) if so, what are the details thereof; and